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Research Trends in Knowledge Management seen through Web of Science :

A Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract

The study presents the trends of research in Knowledge Management during 2014-2018. The data has been extracted from the Web of Science database on the affiliation of basic search. The research output has been derived on the basis of 963 publications receiving 4148 citations with a 4.87 percent average citation per paper. The authorship pattern was dominated by two authors securing 35.099% and collaboration co-efficient of 0.488. The country-wise publication was dominated by the United States contributing 159 papers. Out of the total 963 publications, 881(91.5%) are article which seems to top the list. The Journal of Knowledge Management seems to be the often sought journal for publishing KM articles occupying 25.54% of the total publication. However, the highly cited paper appears in MIS Quarterly authored by Kane, G.C et al. The major subject category was the application of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) in KM. Finally, the co-occurrence of keywords throws light on the research interest of the researchers.

keywords: Research Trends, Knowledge Management, Web of Science, Citation, Authorship Pattern, Collaboration Co-efficient, ICT, Co-occurrence of keywords

1. INTRODUCTION

The concept and name “Knowledge Management” is the assimilation of two words ‘knowledge’ and other is ‘management’. Basically it is the process of bounding or organizing knowledge or information in a systematic and superior way. The concept of knowledge management came into existence during the last decade of the 20th century. It is the term

that recognizes the significance of knowledge in the “global economy” of the “knowledge age”. In the age of information explosion, the possession of relevant and strategic knowledge and its increasing renewal continues to gain competitive advantage. The applications of knowledge management have been applied to various organizations such as government agencies, research and development institutes, universities and many others. As knowledge occupies a core productive and strategic asset, the success of all types of organizations is increasingly dependent on their ability to acquire, create, store, share and utilize knowledge. The management of information has been considered as the domain of librarians and libraries. Librarians and information professionals are trained experts capable in information searching, selecting, acquiring, organizing, preserving, repackaging and disseminating. According to Stephen Abram the process for knowledge creation and use as a continuum where data transforms into information, information transforms into knowledge and knowledge drives and underpins behaviour and decision-making. Below are simple definitions of Data, Information, Knowledge, and Wisdom—all of them are available within every organization:

Data: Scattered, unrelated facts, writings, numbers, or symbols.

Information: Selected, organized and analyzed data.

Knowledge: Information combined with user’s ability and experience that is used to solve a problem or to create new knowledge.

Wisdom: Forward looking and thinking based on one’s values and commitment. The differences between **information** and **knowledge** can be summarized as:

Information is visible, independent from action and decision, different in format after processing, physical product, independent from existing environment, easily transferable, and duplicable.

Knowledge is invisible, closely related to action and decision, different in thought after processing, spiritual product, identified with existing environment, transferable through learning, and is not duplicable.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Bapte and Gedam (2018) analysed the scientific profile of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University (SGBAU) during 1996-2017. The study found that total 1130 publications appeared with 10.65% average citation per paper. 83.98% highly productive papers were published during 2007-2017 in comparison to 1996-2006 which is 16.02%. The highest H-index (17) appeared in 2009. It was also seen that 20.08% documents had international collaboration. Amravati appeared to have the largest international collaboration with Brazil and United States. Author collaboration was found dominant. Most of the papers were written by two authors however papers by three authors received most citation (4444). The faculty of SGBAU preferred Journals (839) and Conference (174) as the popular source types. In the most prolific authors Mahendra Rai (209), S.K. Omnwar (143) and Anand S. Aswar (94) topped the list. The frequency and co-occurrence of keywords highlights the core research interests of the researcher.

Siwach and Parmar (2018) assessed the research contributions of CCS Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU) during 2001-2015. CCSHAU is listed fourth in the top ten agricultural universities of India as in ICAR ranking 2016-17. This study was done to determine the publication trend of the university. The average citation was found to be 5.77 for 2649 papers receiving 15282 citations. The university had many national such as College of Veterinary Science and international collaborations such as Wageningen University and Research Centre, Netherland. Nearly about 47% of the research papers were published in the Annals of Biology which topped the list with one-tenth of the total publication. The collaboration among three authors dominated the list with collaborative coefficient to be 0.668. This study gives an overall analysis of the publication pattern of the university and its international collaboration with institutes.

3. OBJECTIVES

The prime objective is to investigate the research trends in Knowledge Management during 2014 to 2018 regarding the publication output. Particularly, the following objectives were carried out;

- To study the growth of publication in KM during 2014 to 2018
- To analyse the preferred journals considered for publication
- To study the international research collaborations in KM
- To indicate the authorship pattern and collaborative coefficient of the publication
- To identify the contribution made by the most prolific authors
- To identify the major subject categories of KM publication
- To analyse the citations received by the publication for the specific time period
- To identify the highly cited publications
- To categorise the length of articles in the publication
- To highlight the co-occurrence of Keyword which throws light on the research output

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is restricted to Knowledge Management which is often the most crucial topic for research in Library and Information Science discipline. The data was extracted from Web of Science which is an online subscription-based scientific citation indexing service initially produced by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), later maintained by Clarivate Analytics. The data was extracted in Jan 2019. Using the string "Knowledge Management" in basic search, selecting a database from the dropdown menu web of science core collection. The data obtained from the Web of Science database was customised keeping time span from 2014 to 2018. The search was further refined limiting the web of science categories to Information Science library Science. The obtained data was fed in End-Note link to arrange the entire data in an organised manner. The data was also entered in spreadsheets for further analysis to obtain relevant findings. Collaborative Coefficient (CC) was calculated for this study using the methodology as suggested by Ajiferuke based on the counting of fractional productivity defined by Price and Beaver.

$$CC = 1 - \frac{\sum_{j=1}^k \left(\frac{1}{j}\right) f_j}{N}$$

It is given by following formula where,

f_j denotes the " number of j authored research papers" ;

N denotes "total number of research papers published" and

k is the "greatest number of authors per paper".

It is observed by Ajiferuke, that CC will indicate zero when a single-authored papers dominate and counted $1-1/j$ then j authored papers being dominate.

5. ANALYSIS OF DATA

5.1 Growth of Publication

The year-wise publication of KM from 2014 to 2018 are shown in Table 1. During this time period, total 963 publications with an average of 193 (approx) publications per year received a total of 4148 citation. The Average Citation Per Paper (ACPP) was 4.87. The highest number of 232 publication was in the year 2016 followed by 215 and 198 publication in the year 2017 and 2018 respectively. Least number of 124 publication was seen in the year 2014. The ACPP is highest in the year 2014 (11.347) followed by the year 2015 (5.649).

Table 1. Year-wise publication during 2014-2018

Year	TP	TC	ACPP
2014	124	1407	11.347
2015	194	1096	5.649
2016	232	972	4.190
2017	215	583	2.712
2018	198	90	0.455
Total	963	4148	4.87

TP - Total Publication, TC - Total Citation, ACPP - Average Citation Per Paper

5.2 Authorship pattern

The year -wise distribution of authorship pattern is shown in Table 2. As seen from the table, 20.976% publication were by single author while 79.024% consists of two or more than two authors. The highest number of publication was observed by two authors (35.099%) followed by three authors (25.961%). The lowest number of publication was by more than five authors (2.492%). The collaborative coefficient (CC) was 0.488 for the entire publication. It was highest for the year 2018 (0.524), followed by 2017 (0.502). CC was lowest for the year 2015 (0.453). Thus it can be stated that two authors collaboration dominates the research trends on Knowledge Management.

Table 2. Authorship pattern of KM publication

Year	One Author	Two Authors	Three Authors	Four Authors	Five Authors	>Five Authors	Total	CC
2014	25	44	36	14	3	2	124	0.489
2015	48	75	43	19	5	4	194	0.453
2016	55	78	57	27	10	5	232	0.473
2017	40	77	62	21	8	7	215	0.502

2018	34	64	52	33	9	6	198	0.524
Total	202 (20.976%)	338 (35.099%)	250 (25.961%)	114 (11.838%)	35 (3.634%)	24 (2.492%)	963 (100%)	0.488

CC= Collaborative Coefficient

5.3 Top Ten Collaborating Country

The country-wise distribution of articles is shown in Table 3. It is arranged in their decreasing order of publication. Top ten countries consist of 677 publications which acquire 70.3% of the total publications. United States is leading with 159 publications followed by England and China contributing 71 and 68 articles respectively. We can observe the total citations received for the subsequent publication count. Here again United States has received the highest citation for 159 publications. But we can observe that Australia received higher citations 434 in comparison to England 433 for 62 and 71 articles respectively. Again China and Brazil received 331 and 70 citations for 68 articles. However India has attained 90 citations for contributing 41 articles.

Table 3. **Country-wise publication**

Country	TP	TC	ACPI	h-index
United States	159	975	6.132	15
England	71	433	6.099	12
Peoples R China	68	331	4.868	10
Brazil	68	70	1.029	4
Spain	63	371	5.889	11
Australia	62	434	7.000	13
Iran	46	156	3.391	8
Taiwan	44	218	4.955	8
Italy	55	494	8.982	13
India	41	90	2.195	4
Total	677	3572	50.540	

TP - Total Publication, TC - Total Citation, ACPI - Average Citation Per Item

Figure 1. throws light on Knowledge Management research collaboration with leading countries worldwide. The interconnecting links indicate research collaboration. The large circle around USA shows maximum (159) documents have been collaborated within USA. Here India has the least contribution of 41 documents attaining 90 citations denoted by the smallest circle. We can visualise Table 3 in pictorial form with the interlinking of nodes.

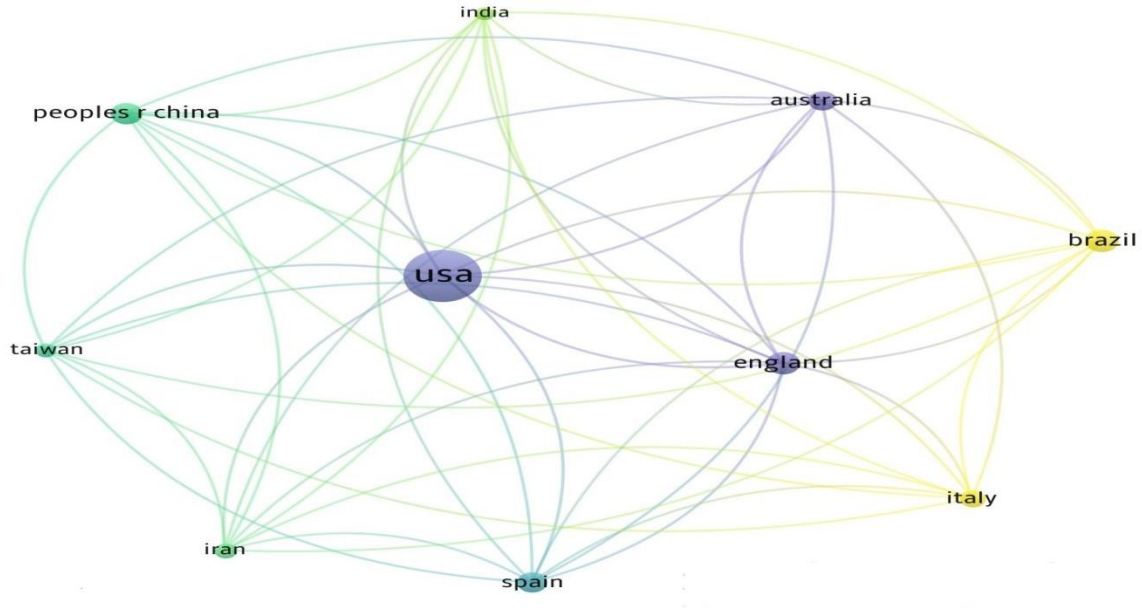


Figure 1. International Collaboration.

5.4 Source type of publication

The publication types of KM during 2014-2018 are shown in Table 4. Out of the total 963 publications, 881(91.5%) are article, 39 (4%) are review, 23 (2.4%) are editorial material, 12 (1.3%) are book review, 4 (0.4%) are proceeding paper and 2 (0.2%) are for correction and news item simultaneously. In terms of citation the highest ACPI of 5.531 is for review in which 39 reviews received 215 citations. It is followed by articles having ACPI of 4.371 where 881 articles received 3851 citations. Finally we can say that Review and Articles received more citation.

Table 4. Publication types

Type of Publication	TP	TC	ACPI
Article	881	3851	4.371
Review	39	215	5.513
Editorial Material	23	81	3.522
Book Review	12	1	0.083
Proceeding Paper	4	5	1.250
Correction	2	0	0
News Item	2	0	0
Total	963		

TP - Total Publication, TC - Total Citation, ACPI - Average Citation Per Item

5.5 Top Ten Journals for Publication

The titles for 963 publication from 2014 to 2018 appeared in 105 sources. The top 10 journals for KM publishing are listed in Table 5. These ten journals account for 62% of the total publication of KM during this time period indicating that these journals are the major sought source title for this research topic. The Journal of Knowledge Management is preferred by most authors for publishing 246 papers which accounts for 25.54% of the entire

publication. This is followed by the journal Knowledge Management Research Practice in which 105 papers contribute 10.9% of the total publication. The next most preferred is Journal of Information Knowledge Management (74 paper) and Vine Journal Information and Knowledge Management systems (53 paper).

The average citation per paper (ACPP) of the publication for these top ten journals was also calculated. The ACPP is found to be highest for the papers published in Information Management (ACPP = 12.941). This is followed by International Journal of Information Management (ACPP = 7.349) and Journal of Knowledge Management (ACPP = 6.947). As far as H-index is concerned, it was found that Journal of Knowledge Management (h-index=20) is highest followed by International Journal of Information Management (h-index=11).

The publisher along with their country of origin is also shown in Table 5. The Emerald Group Publishing Ltd. occupies the leading position of publisher in this field of research from England. This Emerald group has four journals with publishing count of 328 papers of the total 598 papers with 54.85% contribution in top ten journals. This is followed by United States having two publishers World Scientific Publishing Co. and Idea Group Publishing 91 papers of 598 publications contributing 15.21% in top ten publishing journals.

Table 5. Top ten KM publishing journals

Journals	Publisher (Country)	TP	TC	ACPP	h-index
1. Journal of Knowledge Management	Emerald Group Publishing Ltd (England)	246	1709	6.947	20
2. Knowledge Management Research Practice	Taylor & Francis (United Kingdom)	105	295	2.810	9
3. Journal of Information Knowledge Management	World Scientific Publishing Co. (United States)	74	33	0.446	2
4. Vine Journal Information & Knowledge Management Systems	Emerald Group Publishing Ltd. (United Kingdom)	53	73	1.377	5
5. International Journal of Information Management	Elsevier Ltd. (England)	43	316	7.349	11
6. Information Management	Idea Group Publishing (United States)	17	220	12.941	9
7. Perspectivas EM Ciencia da Informacao	A Escola (Brazil)	18	9	0.500	1
8. Journal of Enterprise Information Management	Emerald Group Publishing Ltd. (United Kingdom)	15	76	5.067	6
9. Aslib Journal of Information Management	Emerald Group Publishing Ltd (England)	14	35	2.500	4
10. Informacao Societadi Estudos	Universidade Federal da Paraíba (Brazil)	13	4	0.308	1

Total		598	2770	40.243	
Share of top 10 source titles in total publication is 62%					

TP - Total Publication, TC - Total Citation, ACPP - Average Citation Per Paper

5.6 Highly cited papers

The top ten highly cited papers are listed in Table 6. 2 papers received more than 100 citation and another 2 paper received between 50-100 citation. These highly cited papers appeared in different journals with Journal of Knowledge Management appearing the highest. These 10 papers received 645 citation with an average citation of 65 per paper. 4 paper have higher citation than this average. The paper by Kane, G.C et al received the highest number of citation (152) during 2014.

Table 6. Highly cited top ten papers

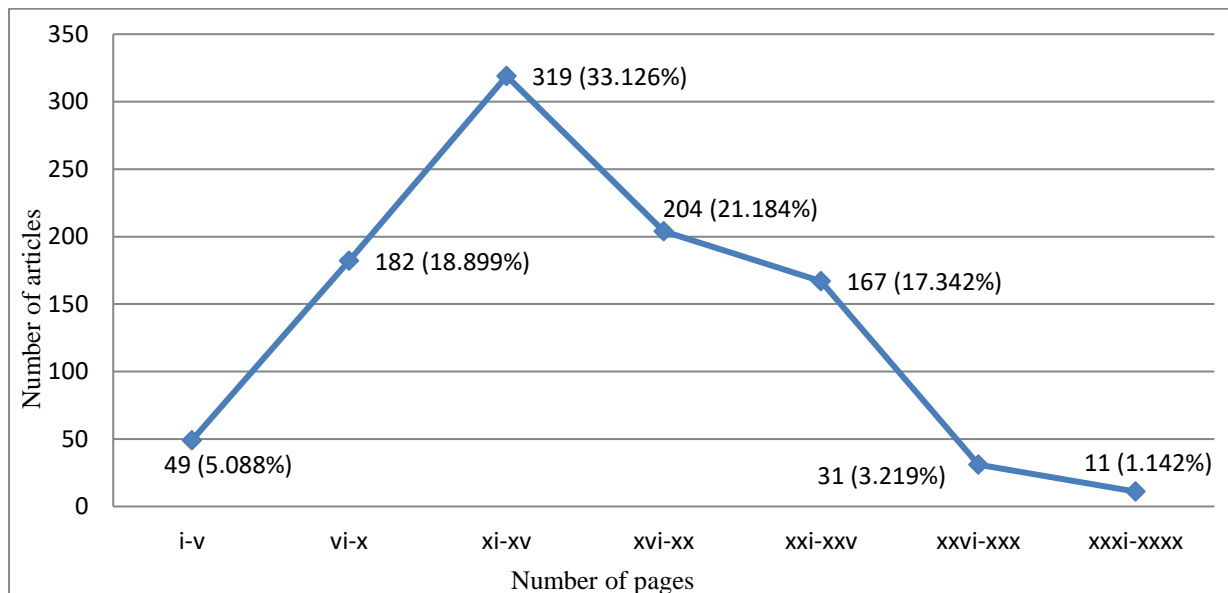
Authors	Title	Year	Source Title	Citation
1. Kane, G.C et al.	"What's different about Social Media Networks? A Framework and Research Agenda"	2014	MIS Quarterly	152
2. Leonardi, P. M.	"Social Media, Knowledge Sharing and Innovation: Toward a theory of Communication Visibility"	2014	Information Systems Research	106
3. Del Giudice, M; Maggioni, V.	"Managerial practices and operative directions of Knowledge Management within inter-firm network: a global view"	2014	Journal of Knowledge Management	71
4. De Mauro, A; Greco, M; Grimaldi, M.	"A formal definition of 2016 Big Data based on its essential features"	2016	Library Review	70
5. Palacios-Marques, D; Soto-Acosta, P; Merigo, J. M.	"Analyzing the effects of 2015 technological, organizational and competition factors on web knowledge exchange in SMEs"	2015	Telematics and Informatics	50
6. Ferraris, A; Santoro, G; Dezi, L.	"How MNC's subsidiaries may improve their innovative performance? The role of external sources & KM capabilities "	2017	Journal of Knowledge Management	44
7. Soto-Acosta, P; Colombo-Palacios, R; Popa, S.	"Web Knowledge sharing and its effect on innovation: An empirical investigation in SMEs "	2014	Knowledge Management Research & Practice	44
8. Wu, Ing-Long; Chen, Jian-Liang.	" Knowledge Management driven firm performance: the role of business process capabilities and organizational learning"	2014	Journal of Knowledge Management	37
9. Kim, T. H; Lee, Jae-Nam; Chun, J. U; et al.	"Understanding the effect of Knowledge Management strategies on Knowledge Management performance: A contingency perspective "	2014	Information & Management	36
10. Del Guidice,	"The impact of IT-based Knowledge	2016	Journal of	35

M; Della Peruta, M. R.	Management systems on interval venturing and innovation: a structural equation modelling approach to corporate performance"		Knowledge Management	
Total citation received by ten highly cited papers				645

5.7 Length of Articles

The length of the article has been categorised in Figure 2. We can see that 319 papers occupy 11-15 pages contributing 33% followed by 204 papers occupy 16-20 pages contributing 21% of the total publications. Least 11 papers with page length between 31-40 contribute 1% of the total articles.

Figure 2. Article length



5.8 Most prolific Authors

The list of 10 most prolific authors is shown in Table 7. In terms of publication K. Anio is the most productive author with 8 publications, followed by B. Ettore and S. Alexander with 7 publications. The ACPP is highest for D. John (20.8), followed by S. Alexander (12.571) and E. Emilio (10.4). The h-index is highest for B. Ettore, S. Alexander, B. Nick, E. Emilio and D. John (4 each).

Table 7. Top Ten Authors

Author	TP	TC	ACPP	h-index
K. Anio	8	45	5.625	3
B. Ettore	7	59	8.428	4
S. Alexander	7	88	12.571	4
A. Peyman	6	32	5.333	3
B. Nick	6	49	8.167	4
Soto-Acosta P	6	41	6.83	3

Bedford. D.A.D	5	-	-	-
E. Emilio	5	52	10.4	4
Gonzalez. R.V.D	5	17	3.4	2
D. John	5	104	20.8	4
	60	487		

TP - Total Publication, TC - Total Citation, ACPP - Average Citation Per Paper

5.9 Citation count of the Total Publication

The citation profile of 963 publication during 2014-2018 is shown in Table 8. It was found that 63.13% of the total publication were cited by others and the remaining 36.86% did not receive any citation. 2 publication (0.208%) received more than 100 citation, 2 publication received (0.208%) received citations between 51-100, 3 publication (0.312%) received between 41-50 citation, 9 publication (0.935%) received 31-40 citation, 30 publication (3.115%) received 21-30 citation, 69 publication (7.165%) received 11-20 citation and finally 493 publication (51.194%) received citation between 1 to 10.

Table 8. Citation Profile of the Publication

No. of citations	TP	Percentage of TP	TC	Percentage of TC
0-0	355	36.863	0	0
1-10	493	51.194	1549	37.343
11-20	69	7.165	1113	26.832
21-30	30	3.115	673	16.225
31-40	9	0.935	301	7.257
41-50	3	0.312	134	3.230
51-100	2	0.208	142	3.424
>100	2	0.208	236	5.689
Total	963	100	4148	100

5.10 Subject-Wise Categories

The subject-wise distribution of KM publication is indicated in Table 9. There has been an increased emphasis of knowledge management in various practices such as knowledge sharing, knowledge organization, knowledge discovery and focus on communities of practice, collaboration, organizational learning is creating a paradigm shift in the job market paving the way for a new growth in the knowledge market. The major subject category was the application of ICT in KM consisting of 133 publication focusing on topics such as web 2.0, mobile applications, etc. This was followed by Knowledge sharing consisting of 131 publications which emerged as one of the favourite discussion topics. Then the application and techniques in KM occupies the third and fourth position with 82 and 81 articles. The topic has been divided into 27 subject categories with their percentage contribution with the cumulative percentage mentioned alongside.

Table 9. Subject-wise distribution

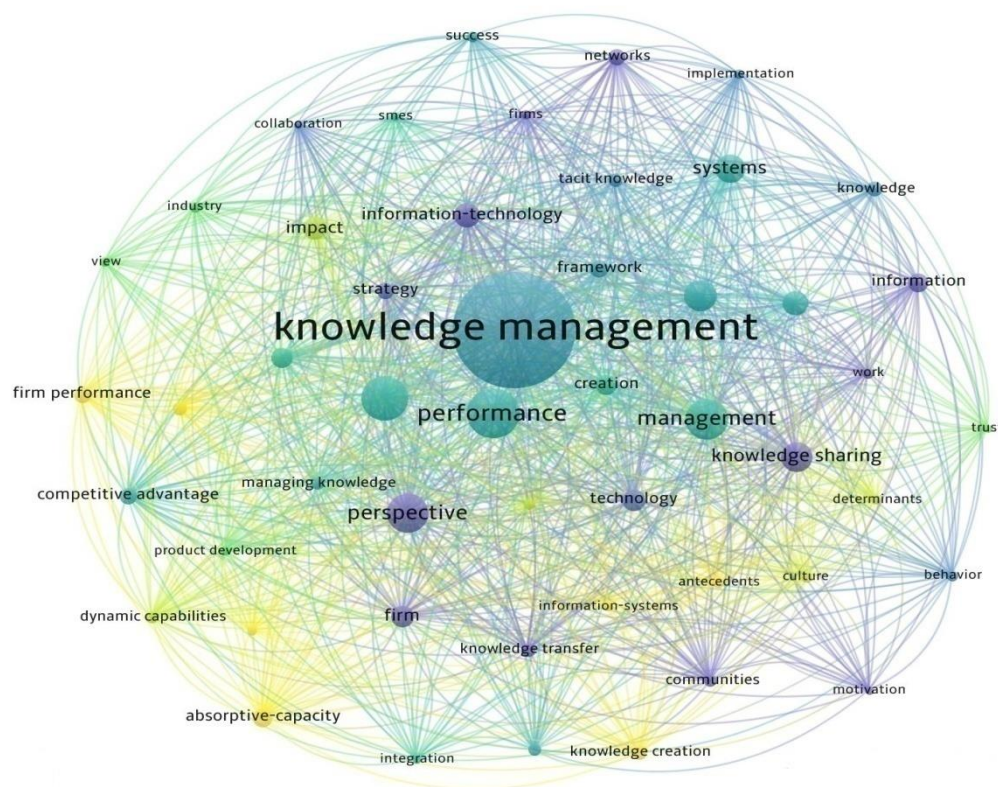
Sl. No.	Subject	TP	Percentage N=963	Cumulative	Cumulative Percentage
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01.	ICT application in KM	133	13.8	133	13.811
02.	Knowledge sharing	131	13.6	264	27.414
03.	Application in KM	82	8.5	346	35.929
04.	Techniques & Tools in KM	81	8.4	427	44.341
05.	Performance appraisal	66	6.9	493	51.194
06.	Knowledge organization	58	6	551	57.217
07.	Collaboration in KM	51	5.3	602	62.513
08.	Librarianship in KM	37	3.8	639	66.355
09.	Social media in KM	36	3.7	675	70.093
10.	Knowledge Acquisition	33	3.4	708	73.520
11.	Organisational implementation	30	3.1	738	76.636
12.	KM in LIS education	28	2.9	766	79.543
13.	Tacit knowledge	28	2.9	794	82.451
14.	Big data in KM	27	2.8	821	85.254
15.	KM resources	24	2.6	845	87.747
16.	Community based KM	20	2.2	865	89.823
17.	Bibliometrics / Scientometrics in KM	18	1.9	883	91.693
18.	Strategic KM	16	1.7	899	93.354
19.	Knowledge embedding	15	1.6	914	94.912
20.	Ethical issues in KM	11	1.1	925	96.054
21.	Information literacy in KM	8	0.8	933	96.885
22.	Classification in KM outsourcing	7	0.7	940	97.612
23.	Metadata in KM	7	0.7	947	98.339
24.	Information Search	5	0.5	952	98.858
25.	Networking in KM	5	0.5	957	99.377
26.	Hybrid KM	4	0.4	961	99.792
27.	Cognitive System in KM	2	0.2	963	100
	Total	963	100		

5.11 Co-occurrence of Keyword

The co-occurrence of keywords with the greatest total link strength is presented in Figure 3. The keyword search is based on full counting method used in VOS viewer. The criteria selected for the search was minimum number of occurrence of a keyword was selected as five or more than five times. Unrelated terms were excluded to keep the relevant terms. Out of 3684 keywords, 318 met the threshold. Then we selected 50 keywords out of the 318. The keywords with most occurrence and high links were Knowledge Management (occurrence - 597, link strength -2841), performance (occurrence -205, link strength -1415), innovation (occurrence -108, link strength -1330), Management (occurrence - 161, link strength -1052), knowledge sharing (occurrence -108, link strength -774). These keywords were the areas on which the researchers focussed on.

Figure 3. Co-occurrence of keyword.



6. CONCLUSION

Knowledge Management has evolved as an approach for improving results and organisational learning. This approach has been comprehensive in organising, gathering, sharing and finally analysing its knowledge with reference to the documents, resources and skills of the people. The bibliometric study on Knowledge Management gives an idea about the varying ways by which researchers are contributing on this topic. The research output has increased comparatively over the years. There is collaborative research on the part of the authors contributing greater articles. Although US tops the list more significant amount of research should be contributed by other countries to enhance the nature and extent of research. The study is limited to Web of Science database and the data is collected within the specified date. More and more articles are being indexed regularly increasing the scope and content of the topic. In spite of the undertaken study it gives a better opportunity to industries, companies and Librarians to enhance their knowledge in order to keep themselves abreast with the latest trends in Knowledge Management.

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Dr P Balasubramanian is the University Librarian of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli - 627012, Tamil Nadu, India. He holds MA, MLISc, MPhil, MCA, MBA, PGDPR and PhD. He is a life member of various professional bodies. His books on Library & Information Science are very popular among the research scholars and Library professionals. He has published 49 books on Library & Information Science and other topics. He has published 119 papers in Seminars, Conventions, Conference, and refereed journals. He has organised many International and National Seminars, Workshops on various emerging topics in Library & Information Science. He is also guiding MPhil and PhD research scholars in Library & Information Science. He has produced 9 MPhil and 26 PhD scholars. He has also completed One major research project funded by ICSSR, Govt of India. He has been teaching Library & Information Science for 20 years.